

Approved March 10, 2022

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022, 3:30 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Bob Osley, Chair, Member Liz Kugler; Health Agent Charlie Kaniecki, Kerry Flaherty, Stephanie Monihan, Katrina Letourneau,

CALL TO ORDER Chair Osley called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM Chair Osley informed everyone that the Governor relaxed the mandates the day before. We want to hear everyone and then the Board will discuss and make their decisions. The Town has a mask mandate until March 1st, the school's mask mandate will expire on February 28, 2022. There was a question regarding when the Board of Health took over the mask mandate authority from the school committee. Chair Osley informed everyone that the numbers have been declining. The school districts have the authority to extend mask mandates. Chair Osley stated that what we say may be overridden by the school. Kerry Flaherty addressed the Board that the Board of Health initiated the mask mandate back in August; she believes that the authority for mask mandates should never have been taken away from the School Committee and whatever decision the Board of Health takes today the school has followed all guidelines set by DESE. Hatfield's COVID rate has declined over 50% in the past week. Those with COVID are following all the guidelines and 89% of Hatfield residents are vaccinated. Ms. Flaherty agrees with Governor Baker that it's time to lift the mask mandates and let parents make the decision if their kids wear a mask or not. As of February 28, it will no longer be a state mandate. Other residents came before the Board of Health either giving their support for ending the mask mandate or to extend the mask mandate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Member Kugler made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2021 and January 13, 2022; Chair Osley seconded, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Covid Update: Chair Osley informed the Board that the numbers from the day before are encouraging, the numbers are down. The vaccination rates are up. Member Kugler commended the schools for their mitigation efforts. Every time she walks into one of the schools, the kids have their masks on.

TOPIC 2 Covid Vaccination Clinic: Member Kugler informed the Board that Hatfield has had vaccination clinics in the past and each clinic has been very successful

TOPIC 3 Re-Evaluate Mask Mandate: The Board did not feel comfortable making a recommendation without the full Board present. It was agreed that this matter would be tabled

for one week. A meeting of the full Board of Health would be scheduled for Tuesday, February 15 at 5:30 p.m. so members of the public would be able to attend.

Member Kugler informed everyone at this time, the battery in the laptop had died. It was plugged in and the meeting resumed.

TOPIC 4 Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out Process: Chair Osley informed the Board that they would do the same thing as the previous year. He asked the Health Agent to prepare a letter for the Board to sign to opt-out of the mosquito spraying process.

TOPIC 5 Failed Title V Septic Inspections: Chair Osley informed the Board that there needs to be some type of protocol put into place when septic systems failed a Title V inspection. There are times when failed systems don't get dealt with for some time and that this issue needs to be dealt with within 90 days. Health Agent Kaniecki informed the Board that the Code states that anyone selling their home has to have an Title V inspection. If the system fails, the report is sent to the Board of Health and then the Board of Health decides if they want to take any action. When there is a cash sale of property, numerous homeowners don't do a Title V inspection. Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board that they need to keep up with the cash sale of homes in Hatfield. Mr. Kaniecki said he would keep a tickler on the systems that fail.

TOPIC 6 Utilization of the BOH Office: After discussion, the Board of Health agreed that the Board of Health room would be kept for confidential files. The desktop computer is not needed.

TOPIC 7 Replacing/Fixing the hand sanitizer machine: Chair Osley informed the Board that the Council on Aging hand sanitizer unit is no longer working. Chair Osley will look at it to see if he can fix it.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS:

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Kaniecki has been watching this potato thing going on between 19-21 North Street. There seems to be potatoes that wash into a swale. It seems to be a wetland violation not a Board of Health violation. I don't see it causing illness, accident potential, and is it a nuisance. Chair Osley said in 90° weather it can be a nuisance. Mr. Kaniecki said that he sees a wetlands issue. Chair Osley informed the Board that he had previously made a site visit and there are rotting potatoes. Chair Osley told the Board he respects Mr. Kaniecki's opinion on this issue. Mr. Kaniecki said that this is a normal farming issue.

Lydia Szych informed the Board of Health that they need to post an Agenda and that the Select Board is meeting on February 15 at 5:30 p.m. The Board, after discussion with the Town Clerk decided that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board that he has not heard anything further on the leaking roof at the Hatfield Elementary School.

Member Kugler made a motion to adjourn at 4:56 pm. Chair Osley seconded, all in favor, aye, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant